

Claim Amendments

Applicants have added new claims 29 and 30, amended claims 1-4, 7, 9-11 and 25-27, and cancelled claims 5-6, 8, 12-24 and 28 without prejudice. Applicants set forth below a complete listing of the claims with the corresponding status indicated for each claim.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An identification~~ The printing system for identifying characteristics of a respective ink for a printing system, comprising a tag including of claim 29, wherein:

each tag comprises a memory with logic which stores the manufacturing date data related to the characteristics of the [[ink;]] associated ink, and a source which generates a [[data]] signal relating to the data; and

wherein the reader is adapted to read the signal from the identified tag a characteristic of the ink; and a reader which receives the data signal.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The identification~~ printing system of claim [[1]] 29, wherein the reader comprises a reader/writer ~~which receives the data signal from the tag and transmits incoming data signals~~ that is further adapted to write data to the tags.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the ~~logic instructs the source to generate the output data taken from the memory as an outgoing RF signal~~ comprises a radio frequency signal.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory also stores data that identifies the color of the associated ink.

5-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim [[6]] 29, further comprising a disabler circuit coupled to the controller, the disabler circuit adapted to disable disabling the printing system when the data signal received from the tag does not

~~satisfy a pre-determined criteria~~ if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ each tag is attached to ~~[[a]]~~ the associated container ~~holding the ink.~~

10. (Currently Amended) The printing system of claim 1, wherein the ~~data~~ signal from the identified tag is transmitted to the reader wirelessly.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The printing system of claim 29, wherein each of the tags comprise radio frequency (RF) identification tags, ~~for identifying characteristics of an ink, comprising:~~

~~a memory which stores data; and~~

~~an RF source which generates RF signals, selective data being transmitted as the RF signals, and identifying at least one characteristic of the ink~~

12-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 30, wherein reading comprises wirelessly reading the data from the identified tag ~~is transmitted to the reader wirelessly.~~

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 30, wherein the data from the identified tag is ~~transmitted~~ read via a radio frequency (RF) signal.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 30, further comprising disabling the printing system ~~when the selective data does not satisfy a predetermined criteria~~ if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (New) A printing system comprising:

a plurality of ink containers, each ink container comprising an ink and an associated tag, each tag comprising data that identifies the manufacturing date of the associated ink, each ink comprising an expiration date;

a reader adapted to read the data from an identified tag; and

a controller coupled to the reader, the controller adapted to determine if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.

30. (New) A method for use with a printing system that comprises a plurality of ink containers, each ink container comprising an ink that comprises an expiration date, the method comprising:

providing a plurality of tags;

uniquely associating each tag with a corresponding one of the containers, each tag comprising data that identifies the manufacturing date of the associated ink;

reading the data from an identified tag; and

determining if the expiration date of the ink associated with the identified tag has been exceeded.